

PA President Cederfelt attends UNGA, holds bilateral meetings in New York

Attending the 77th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly this week, OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) has held a series of bilateral meetings with UN Permanent Representatives, Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, General Assembly President Csaba Kőrösi, and other UN officials. The war in Ukraine has featured prominently in these talks, including the need to continue dialogue to support a peaceful solution, as well as other pressing security concerns, including the climate crisis.

In a discussion with President Kőrösi, Cederfelt highlighted the importance of parliamentary participation in the work of international organizations and the possibility for increased co-operation between the OSCE PA and the United Nations. The sides highlighted the constructive role played by parliamentarians across a range of issues, from sustainable development to humanitarian issues to mediation and dialogue.

Cederfelt met with Tsikhanouskaya on the sidelines of the General Assembly meeting on Tuesday. Talks focused on the ongoing political repression in Belarus, the war in Ukraine and the prospects of a truly democratic government representing the Belarusian people. Cederfelt met last Friday with the Permanent



Margareta Cederfelt and Csaba Kőrösi in New York, 16 September

Representative of Ukraine, Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya, expressing her strong dedication to supporting a peaceful resolution to the war in respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Cederfelt has met with Ulrika Modéer of the UN Development Programme for discussions on common areas of concern for the UN and OSCE. She has also met with Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director at UN Women, for talks that focused on advancing gender equality. Meetings have also taken place with UN ambassadors from Poland, Moldova, Latvia, Canada, Kazakhstan, the United States, Türkiye, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and the European Union.

OSCE PA Migration Committee meeting focuses on Ukrainian refugees

The OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met online Tuesday for talks that focused on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Europe. Chaired by Vice-President Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), and following welcome remarks from President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Secretary General Roberto Montella, the committee discussed how countries are handling the influx of refugees. Rt. Hon. Pritchard expressed support for those countries that are stepping up and providing support to displaced Ukrainians, emphasizing the importance of recognizing governments that are doing the right thing.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee highlighted efforts being

taken in their countries to ensure that refugees are provided shelter and services, as well as ensuring that children can attend public schools and adults are provided unimpeded access to the labor market. Concern was expressed about the difficulties experienced by some smaller countries that are hosting large numbers of refugees, and what can be done to provide needed support through additional financing.

Committee members also discussed possible field visits of the committee to countries that are hosting large numbers of refugees, with a focus on recognizing the work of governments that are going above and beyond.

PA Vienna Office holds meetings with representatives of OSCE Partner States, youth activists

Meeting Tuesday with diplomatic representatives of several OSCE Partner States, OSCE PA Vienna Office staff highlighted election observation activities and encouraged strong participation of Partners for Co-operation in PA meetings. The sides discussed the activities of the Assembly, the role of the PA's statutory meetings, the Helsinki +50 - Call for Action initiative, the work of the Ad Hoc and General Committees and Special Representatives, and co-operation with the governmental side of the OSCE. The diplomats and the PA representatives highlighted the relevance of multilateral diplomacy, the need for finding solutions and functional space in a more polarized environment, emphasizing the need for adaptation.

On Wednesday, Vienna Office staff members met with young



Vienna Office hosts Partner State representatives, 20 September

activists from Tajikistan to discuss current challenges in the OSCE with a specific focus of participation of youth in decision-making processes.

Secretaries of Delegation discuss PA work with Secretary General Montella and staff

On 16 September, OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella and International Secretariat staff held an informal online meeting with Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations to provide information about Assembly activities and answer any questions from national delegations. With some 80 participants, the first-of-its-kind "town hall meeting" was an opportunity to discuss PA work, including upcoming election observation missions and statutory meetings. In particular focus was the 2022 Autumn Meeting, which will be held in-person from 24 to 26 November in Warsaw, hosted by the Parliament of Poland.

